

Monterey County

Monterey County's coastline is one of the most beautiful in the state, stretching from the flat coastal plain around Monterey Bay in the north, through the steep hills of the Monterey Peninsula, to the magnificent, rugged Big Sur Coast.

Monterey Bay was sighted in 1542 by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, and visited again 60 years later by Sebastián Vizcaíno, who named it in honor of his Mexican viceroy, the Count of Monte Rey. In 1770 Gaspar de Portolá and Padre Junípero Serra established the Presidio and the second California mission. The settlement was immediately successful largely because of abundant timber, fertile soil, and mild weather.

Prior to Spanish settlement, the Monterey Bay area was inhabited by the Ohlone, or Costanoan Indians, who were hunter-gatherers, shellfish being their primary food source. During the Spanish occupation the Indians were concentrated in the missions, but following the secularization of the missions by the Mexicans, the Indians were dispersed and eventually disappeared. By 1920, there were only 56 surviving Costanoans.

Moss Landing, the northernmost coastal town in Monterey, was established in the 1860s by Captain Charles Moss, and soon became a bustling harbor and whaling station. Now it is a pleasure and fishing boat harbor, with antique shops, flea markets, and restaurants.

Monterey Peninsula, at the southwest end of Monterey Bay, is the focal point of the county, with its towns of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, and Carmel. Historically, the city of Monterey was the capital of Alta California under both Spanish and Mexican rule. Today, the "Path of History" meanders through the city and passes many historic buildings and sites. Cannery Row, made famous by John Steinbeck's novel, *Cannery Row*, was the site of flourishing sardine canneries in the 1940s until the sardines suddenly vanished in 1951. Although the sardines later returned, the canning industry did not, and Cannery Row is now a tourist attraction with shops, restaurants, and galleries.

Pacific Grove, on the north side of the peninsula, is noted for its beautiful flowering ice plant, *Mesembryanthemum*, and the millions of Monarch butterflies that winter in the trees. Seventeen-Mile Drive winds through the forested hills of the Del Monte Forest and along the rocky coast of Pebble Beach. Carmel-by-the-Sea, located at the southwest edge of the peninsula, is a Mediterranean-like village that has become a mecca for both artists and tourists with its shops on the hill, sailboats on the water, and clean, white sandy beach on Carmel Bay.

South of Carmel is Point Lobos State Reserve, a magnificent headland with trails leading through Monterey cypress groves and along the shore, tidepools rich in aquatic life, and abundant marine life such as sea lions and sea otters in the offshore kelp beds.

South of Point Lobos, Highway 1 narrows and winds along the Big Sur Coast between the steep Santa Lucia Mountains and the sparkling Pacific Ocean. There are many pull-outs with spectacular vistas, and several public picnic areas and beaches along Highway 1; Los Padres National Forest, which includes the Ventana Wilderness, begins at the coast and stretches inland for miles, providing numerous hiking trails and campsites. The original inhabitants of the Big Sur Coast were the Esselen Indians, who lived from Point Sur to Lucia; the Salinans, who lived south of Lucia; and the Costanoans, who lived along the coast from the Palo Colorado Canyon to the Big Sur River mouth.

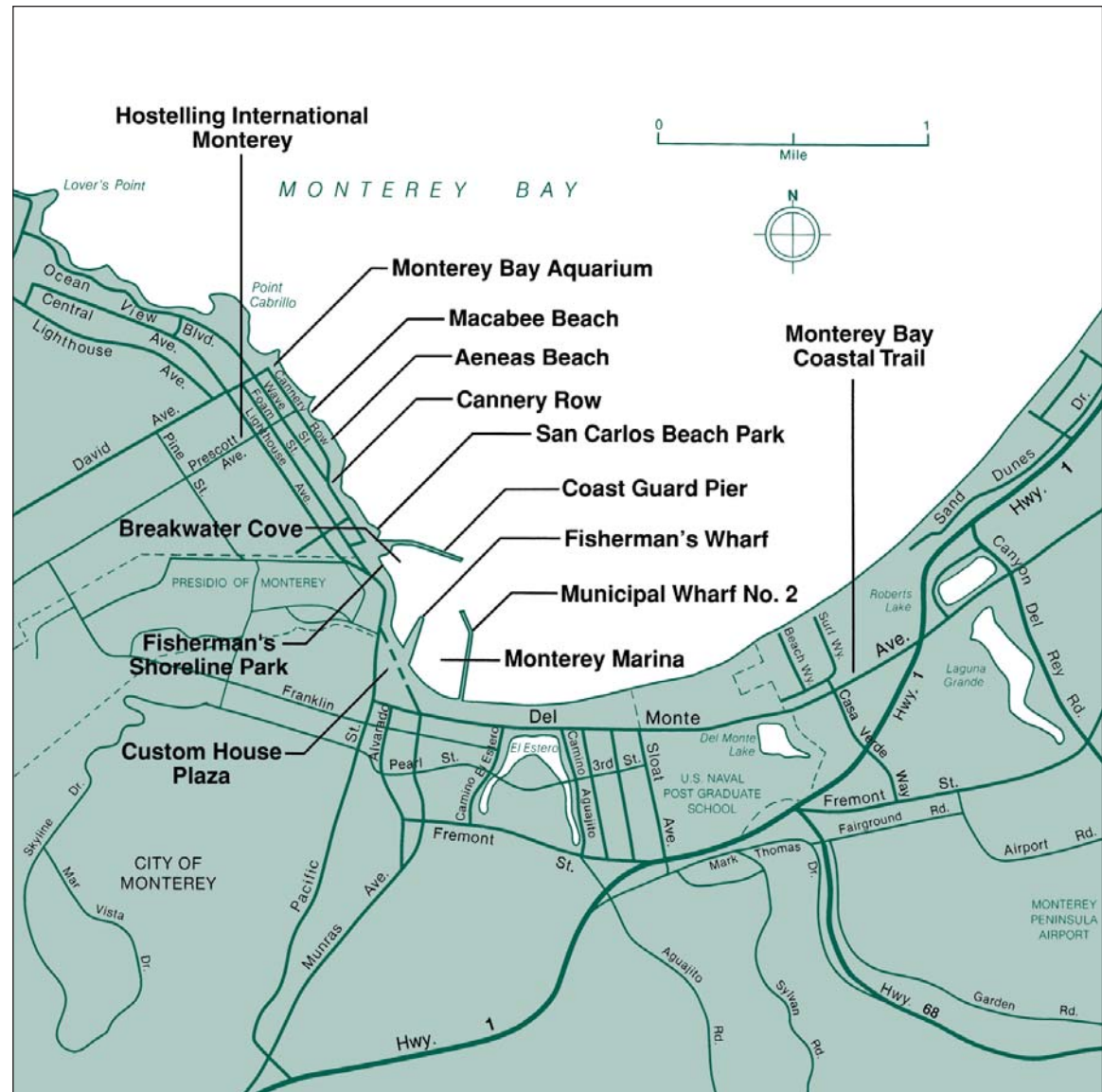


For more information on Monterey County's coast, write or call: Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, 380 Alvarado (P.O. Box 1770), Monterey 93940, (831) 648-5360 or see www.mpcc.com; Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, Forest and Central Avenues (P.O. Box 167B), Pacific Grove 93950, (831) 373-3304 or see www.pacificgrove.org; or Carmel California Visitor and Information Center, San Carlos between 5th and 6th Avenues (P.O. Box 4444), Carmel 93921, (831) 624-2522 or see carmelcalifornia.org.

For transit information, contact Monterey-Salinas Transit: One Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey 93940, (831) 8999-2555 or 424-7695 or see www.mst.org.



Monterey Marina, Fisherman's Wharf





Monterey County

CITY OF MONTEREY



NAME	LOCATION	FACILITIES												ENVIRONMENT					
		Entrance/Parking Fee	Parking	Restrooms	Lifeguard	Campground	Showers	Firepits	Stairs to Beach	Path to Beach	Bike Path	Hiking Trail	Facilities for Disabled	Boating Facilities	Fishing	Equestrian Trail	Sandy Beach	Dunes	Rocky Shore
Monterey Bay Coastal Trail	Parallel to waterfront, Monterey																		
Municipal Wharf No. 2	Wharf No. 2, foot of Figueroa St., Monterey																		
Monterey Marina	Between Municipal Wharf No. 2 and Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey																		
Fisherman's Wharf	Foot of Olivier St., Monterey																		
Custom House Plaza	Headquarters at 20 Custom House Plaza, Monterey																		
Fisherman's Shoreline Park	Lighthouse Curve at Foam St., Monterey																		
Breakwater Cove Marina	32 Cannery Row, Monterey																		
Coast Guard Pier	S.E. end of Wave St., Monterey																		
San Carlos Beach Park	Foot of Reeside Ave., Monterey																		
Cannery Row	Cannery Row, Monterey																		
Aeneas Beach	400 Cannery Row, Monterey																		
Macabee Beach	Cannery Row, between McClellan and Prescott aves., Monterey																		
Monterey Bay Aquarium	Cannery Row at David Ave., Monterey																		
Hostelling International, Monterey	778 Hawthorne St., Monterey																		

MONTEREY BAY COASTAL TRAIL: Runs along the old Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way the length of the City shoreline for three miles from Seaside to Lover's Point in Pacific Grove. Benches and viewpoints along the wheelchair-accessible trail. Information: (831) 646-3866.

MUNICIPAL WHARF NO. 2: The wharf was built in 1926 and is used by commercial fishermen. Facilities include a restaurant, snack bar, bait and tackle. Fishing from wharf allowed. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms and metered parking. A 3-ton capacity coin operated public boat hoist is available year round. Hoist use requires training. Information: (831) 646-3950.

MONTEREY MARINA: The office is located between Fishermen's Wharf and Wharf No. 2. Facilities include a two-lane concrete public ramp open 24 hours; 412 slips. Visiting boats up to 70 feet accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Open anchorage exists. Fishing licenses and bait and tackle available. No fishing in the marina. Fee parking. Restrooms are wheelchair accessible. Information: (831) 646-3950

FISHERMAN'S WHARF: Features restaurants, shops, galleries and fish markets and the Wharf Theatre. Fishing trips, charters and sightseeing cruises are available. Whale watching cruises are popular and bird watching cruises are also offered. Fee parking. Information: (831) 649-6544.

CUSTOM HOUSE PLAZA: Located at the foot of Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey State Historic Park comprises 10 historic buildings, including the Custom House which was built in 1827, and which displays Monterey's Spanish, Mexican and Native American heritage. The visitor center is located at Stanton Center at 5 Custom House Plaza. Open daily. Picnic areas, gardens and visitor center are wheelchair accessible. Guided tours. Information: (831) 649-7118.

Maritime Museum of Monterey at 5 Custom House Plaza holds the Allen Knight Collection of ship memorabilia and models. It has the first order Fresnel lens used for 90 years at Point Sur Lighthouse; the lens is activated daily for display. Museum gift shop includes ship models. Open

daily 10 AM-5 PM. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms. Information: (831) 372-2608.

FISHERMAN'S SHORELINE PARK: Benches and viewpoints along a narrow, 5-acre coast line park along the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail between Fisherman's Wharf and the Coast Guard Breakwater. For park information call (831) 646-3866. On a hill adjacent to the park is the Presidio of Monterey Museum which explores the history of Monterey's military past. Information: (831) 646-3456.

BREAKWATER COVE MARINA: Located at the upcoast foot of the Coast Guard Pier, the marina has 60 slips, a travel lift, boat hoist, boat storage and boat repair facility. Open Mon.-Fri. 8 AM-5 PM. Fuel dock open daily 8 AM-5 PM. Snack bar and marine related sales. Information: (831) 373-7857.

COAST GUARD PIER: There is public access along the rock jetty, often called "The Breakwater", which also serves as a haulout for seals and sea lions. A public parking lot, launch ramp, and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are located at the foot of the breakwater. Showers in restroom. Popular fishing and driving area; a stairway provides access to San Carlos Beach.

SAN CARLOS BEACH PARK: At the upcoast end of Cannery Row next to the Coast Guard Pier, San Carlos Park is an important diver entry point. There are landscaping, picnic tables and stairways and a ramp to the beach. Wheelchair-accessible restroom and outdoor shower. A fee parking lot is on the inland side of Cannery Row.

CANNERY ROW: The Row begins near the Coast Guard Pier and parallels the shoreline for half a mile to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. For the first half of the 20th Century a sardine canning industry flourished here. The sardines mysteriously vanished from Monterey Bay in 1951 and Cannery Row now hosts shops, restaurants, galleries, plazas and walkways along the bay. The street was immortalized by John Steinbeck. Off-shore are the rich kelp beds that attract divers from around the world.

Access to the bay and beach is provided at numerous points along Cannery Row.

AENEAS BEACH: Monterey Plaza Hotel has a large public plaza overlooking the bay and a stairway to Aeneas Beach and its tidepools, a diver entry point. There is also access to a rocky promontory viewpoint via a walkway under the Charthouse Restaurant.

MACABEE BEACH: Between McClellan and Prescott this small sandy beach serves as an entry point for divers. Stairway access from Steinbeck Plaza and at either side of Spindrift Inn. Spindrift Inn provides an outside shower on the bayside of the building. The Cannery Row Welcome Center is located on the Coastal Trail, one block inland from Steinbeck Plaza. Call: (831) 373-1902.

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM: Built on the site of the old Hovden Cannery, the Aquarium offers a unique introduction to the marine ecosystems of Monterey Bay. The internationally acclaimed aquarium features numerous habitat tanks, a three-story kelp forest exhibit, sea otters, touch tanks, an open air shorebird aviary and a large outdoor viewing plaza with constructed tidepools.

The Outer Bay Wing features animals adapted to the open sea: ocean sunfish, yellowfin tuna, crystal and comb jellies, and green sea turtles. The million gallon tank is 35 feet deep, 90 feet long and 52 feet from front to back. The Outer Bay galleries also include hands-on exhibits and a learning area for young children. Educational programs, tours, and research programs.

Restaurant and gift shop. Fully wheelchair accessible. The aquarium is a non-profit organization supported by entry fees and member contributions. Open daily except Christmas; regular hours 10 AM-6 PM. Information: (831) 648-4888 or see www.mbayaq.org.

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL, MONTEREY: Hostel located in renovated historic carpenter's union hall, open 8-10 AM, 5-10 PM, 11 PM curfew. Free parking; for information, call: (831) 649-0375.

Southern Sea Otter

The southern sea otter, *Enhydra lutris nereis*, one of the most interesting of California's marine mammals, can be found off the coast between Santa Cruz and Avila Beach in San Luis Obispo County. The sea otter is a member of the weasel family; adult males measure up to 4-1/2 feet long and weigh up to 85 lbs., while females are somewhat shorter and lighter. Otters have dense fur ranging in color from black to dark red, and short front paws used primarily for feeding and grooming; hind feet are webbed and used as flippers for swimming.

Like primates, otters use tools in their daily routines. For example, an otter will dive beneath the water's surface and, with its paws, use a rock to remove shellfish from the sea bottom; once it has surfaced, the otter floats on its back, positions its catch on its chest, and hammers the shell until edible portions are accessible.

The sea otters' diet varies according to environment and the length of time they have stayed in an area. Where kelp beds are present, otters will float in the beds and search for crabs and snails; in coastal areas with sandy beaches, otters will come ashore and forage for crabs and clams. When otters first move into an area, their preferred diet consists primarily of abalone, sea urchins, and crabs if the area is rocky, and clams and crabs in sandy locations. As the population increases and becomes established, abalone and sea urchins become less abundant, and crabs become the otters' chief food source; otters may also feed on other marine species such as squid, mussels, limpets, and sea stars.

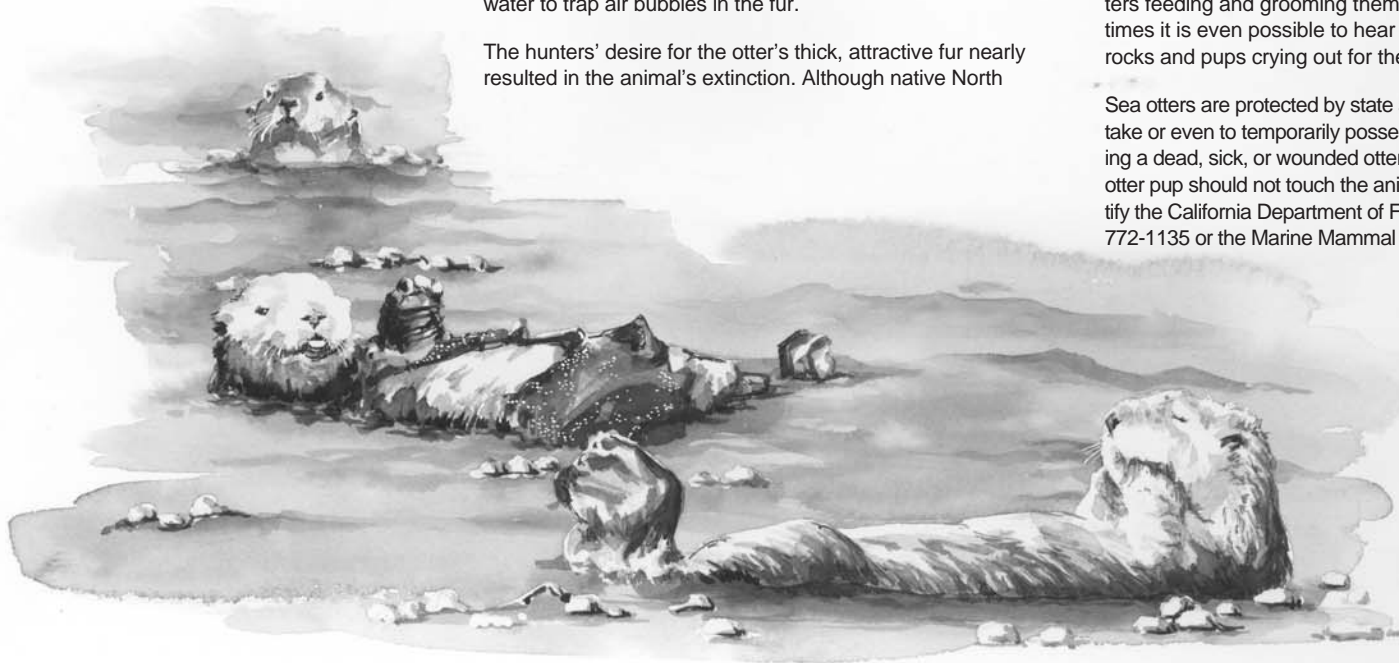
To compensate for the lack of blubber that insulates most marine mammals, the average otter consumes food that equals up to 25% of its body weight daily. An otter consumes 2.5 tons of food during a single year; this large quantity of food fuels its metabolism and maintains proper body temperature. Although its fur is not a very efficient insulator in the water, the otter meticulously grooms it to provide maximum warming; part of the grooming process includes rolling vigorously in the water to trap air bubbles in the fur.

The hunters' desire for the otter's thick, attractive fur nearly resulted in the animal's extinction. Although native North

Americans hunted the otter from Alaska to southern California for many years, large-scale hunting did not occur until the mid-18th century. Between 1741 and 1911, Russian, American, French, and British fur traders hunted marine mammals off the western coast of the United States and the otter population declined to a near extinct level. In 1911 the Fur Seal Treaty was signed and included provisions to protect the sea otters; subsequently, a number of state and national laws providing for marine mammal protection were enacted. Today, most of the southern sea otters live within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge, a protected habitat area between the Carmel River in Monterey County and Santa Rosa Creek in San Luis Obispo County.

Spotting sea otters in offshore waters can be difficult because otters often remain in kelp beds, and the kelp floats resemble otter heads. One of the best times to observe otters is during feeding times, usually in the early morning and late afternoon. Sea gulls hovering above kelp beds are a good indicator of an otter's presence, as gulls often wait above the beds to feed on scraps left by otters. With binoculars one can observe the otters feeding and grooming themselves and their young; at times it is even possible to hear otters pounding on shells with rocks and pups crying out for their mothers.

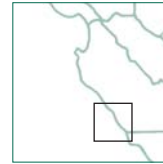
Sea otters are protected by state and federal law; it is illegal to take or even to temporarily possess a sea otter. Any person finding a dead, sick, or wounded otter or an apparently abandoned otter pup should not touch the animal but should immediately notify the California Department of Fish and Game at (805) 772-1135 or the Marine Mammal Center at (415) 289-7325.





Monterey County

SOUTHERN BIG SUR



NAME	LOCATION	FACILITIES												ENVIRONMENT					
		Entrance/Parking Fee	Parking	Restrooms	Lifeguard	Campground	Showers	Firepits	Stairs to Beach	Path to Beach	Bike Path	Hiking Trail	Facilities for Disabled	Boating Facilities	Fishing	Equestrian Trail	Sandy Beach	Dunes	Rocky Shore
Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve	Hwy. 1, 7 mi. S. of Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park		•																
Limekiln State Park	Off Hwy. 1, 2 mi. S. of Lucia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•			•	•	•
Kirk Creek Campground	W. of Hwy. 1, 4 mi. S. of Lucia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•
Mill Creek Picnic Ground	W. of Hwy. 1, 5 mi. S. of Lucia		•	•			•	•				•	•				•	•	•
Sand Dollar Picnic Area and Beach	W. of Hwy. 1, 11 mi. S. of Lucia		•	•			•	•		•	•						•		
Plaskett Creek Campground	E. of Hwy. 1, 11.7 mi. S. of Lucia	•	•	•	•		•											•	•
Jade Cove	W. of Hwy. 1, 12.4 mi. S. of Lucia							•						•			•		
Willow Creek Picnic Ground	W. of Hwy. 1, 14 mi. S. of Lucia		•	•			•							•			•	•	•

LANDELS-HILL BIG CREEK RESERVE: The mountainous 3,911-acre reserve is part of the University of California Natural Reserve System and is used for teaching and research. The reserve supports a variety of wild and endangered plants and animals. The Reserve holds an annual openhouse. Information: (831) 667-2543.

LIMEKILN STATE PARK: 33 campsites in the redwoods and on the beach; wheelchair accessible restrooms; showers. Firewood for sale. Fishing; trails to waterfalls and historic limekilns. Information: (831) 667-2403. For reservations, call: 1-800-444-7275.

The following areas are units of the Los Padres National Forest: Pfeiffer Beach, Kirk Creek Campground, Mill Creek Picnic Ground, Sand Dollar Picnic Area and Beach, Plaskett Creek Campground, Jade Cove, and Willow Creek Picnic Ground.

KIRK CREEK CAMPGROUND: 33 campsites on the bluffs above a sandy beach; magnificent view of the coast. At the south end of the campground a steep trail leads to the beach; diving area. Fee for use of campsites. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms. Information: (831) 385-5434.

MILL CREEK PICNIC GROUND: Two picnic tables overlook the ocean; a steep path leads to the rocky shore, which is a diving area. Pets permitted on leash. The chemical toilets are wheelchair accessible. Hang gliders who launch from Plaskett Ridge use the blufftop as a landing site. All hang gliders must register with the Pacific Valley Ranger Station. Information: (805) 927-4111.

SAND DOLLAR PICNIC AREA AND BEACH: Picnic tables among the cypress trees; trails lead across the field and down to a crescent-shaped sandy beach. Pets must be leashed. Restrooms are wheelchair accessible. Popular hang-glide landing area. Fee charged. For information, call: (831) 385-5434.

PLASKETT CREEK CAMPGROUND: 44 sites with picnic tables and grills at the base of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Fee charged for use of campsites. Group sites for up to 50 persons are available by reservation; for information, call: 1-800-283-2267.

JADE COVE: Look for the Los Padres National Forest sign on Hwy. 1. Shoulder parking only; a steep trail leads down the bluff to several rocky coves. Diving area. Named after the nephrite jade found here. For information, call: (831) 385-5434.

WILLOW CREEK PICNIC GROUND: Day-use area along the rocky shore near where Willow Creek flows into the ocean; view of Plaskett Rock offshore. Information: (831) 385-5434

